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prevailing mysteries." There seems to be no reason why Urania's mysteries should prevail over those of Melpomene and so the word should be considered as a translation of the Lat. *praevalens*, 'very strong, powerful.' Cp. Livy's *praevalentis populi vires*.

In Mem., Epilogue, p. 279,

And thou art worthy; full of power;
As gentle, liberal-minded, great,
Consistent, wearing all that weight
Of learning lightly like a flower.

No meaning that is assigned to *consistent* in the dictionaries quite suits the word here. The poet evidently wishes to describe his brother-in-law as a well-balanced man, one whose qualities 'stood together' well. One is reminded of Matthew Arnold's description of Sophocles "whose even-balanced soul, business could not make dull, nor passion wild, who saw life steadily and saw it whole."

To Virgil, p. 558, "Every purple Caesar's dome." Lat. *domus*. "a house," and hence meaning here a great house, not a dome in the usual English sense.

In the matter of syntax two rather un-English constructions may be noted, which are due to Latin influence.

Lancelot and Elaine, p. 393,

However mild he seems at home, nor cares
For triumph in our mimic wars.

This is due no doubt to the two uses of *quamvis*, that of an adverb with an adjective and that of an adversative conjunction with a clause. So here "however" represents the first use while the meaning of "although" is to be supplied with the second clause making it equivalent to *although he cares not*.

In Mem., CIX, p. 273, "My shame is greater who remain." The only antecedent of "who" is the adjective "my," but a similar Lat. construction is not unusual; e. g., Caes., B. G., vii, 50, *Meae vitae subvenire conamini, quem iam sanguis viresque deficiunt*.

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A COMPANION OF CHAUCER

Among the companions of Geoffrey Chaucer on his mission to France in 1377 was Sir Robert de Assheton, who was holder of offices of importance under Edward III and Richard II. The account of him by W. E. A. Axon in *The Dictionary of National Biography*, as well as every other account, is inaccurate in several important details.

In the first place, he was not, as Mr. Axon believes, a Lancashire man, the son of Sir John Ashton, and the father of Thomas de Assheton. He was a southerner, from Somerset, the son of Robert

de Assheton and Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph de Gorges and Alianora his wife (*Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, vol. VIII, p. 335, and vol. XIII, pp. 56 and 97). He did not leave any direct descendants (*ibid.*). His only daughter, Alianora, married before March 16, 1367, John, son of Thomas de Berkeley (*ibid.*, vol. VIII, p. 333). She died before February 13, 1384 (*ibid.*, p. 336).

Mr. Axon says that the name of Assheton's first wife is unknown. She was Elizabeth de L'Orti, who had married as her first husband Sir Ralph de Middeney (Collinson, John: *The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*. In three volumes, Bath, 1791, vol. III, p. 130).

It is highly improbable that the Robert de Assheton whom Mr. Axon mentions as a member of the parliament of Westminster in 1324 could be identified with a Robert de Assheton or Aston who appears in history for the first time, as far as I can discover, in 1363, when the king appointed him with John de Sancto Laudo "to select and array in the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Gloucester and Wilts forty archers and bring them to Ireland to stay in the company of the king's son Lionel, duke of Clarence, guardian of that land, at the king's wages, and to arrest all whom they find contrariant or rebellious herein and imprison them until further order" (*Patent Rolls*, 1361-4, p. 309).

The first document that I have discovered which calls Assheton "Captain of Guynes Castle" is dated 24 January, 1367, in which he is called "late captain of Guynes Castle" (*Close Rolls*, 1364-8, p. 363). Mr. Axon makes him hold this office in 1359. Furthermore, Mr. Axon states that Assheton was Lord Treasurer of England, 1362 and 1373: he was first appointed to this position on 26 September, 1375 (*Letter Book H*. Edited by Reginald R. Sharpe, pp. 32-3, and *Close Rolls*, 1374-7. See also *Patent Rolls* 1374-7, p. 169).

He was not only in 1369 as Mr. Axon says, Admiral of the Fleet to the West or Narrow Seas, but he was re-appointed on 6 October, 1371 (Rymer, *Foedera*, ed. 1816-69, vol. III, part 2, p. 924). Mr. Axon calls him the King's Chamberlain in 1373: the earliest date at which I find him holding that title is 26 April, 1377 (Rymer, *op. cit.*, III, part 2, p. 1076). His appointment as Constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports was not in 1380, but on 1 February, 1381 (*Patent Rolls*, 1377-81, pp. 589-590). Finally, he did not die on 9 January 1384-5, but 9 January 1383-4 (for his second wife Phillippa, was a widow on 24 November 1384 (*Patent Rolls*, 1381-5, pp. 518-9) and in an inquisition made 24 April 1384, I find that he died 9 January "last," which, of course, was 9 January 1383-4 (*Inquisitions Post Mortem for Gloucestershire*, vol. VI, London, 1914, p. 131).

In addition to the offices mentioned by Mr. Axon, Sir Robert de Assheton held those of Chancellor of Ireland, 24 October, 1364

(*Patent Rolls*, 1364-7, p. 25), Commissioner of the Peace in the Isle of Wight and Captain and Keeper of Southampton, 1371 (*Patent Rolls*, 1370-4, pp. 106 and 102), King's Butler, 1376, (*Close Rolls*, 1374-7, pp. 292-3), Keeper of the Castle and town of Porcestre and the forest there, 1376-81 (*Patent Rolls*, 1374-7, p. 250), Ambassador to treat with France, 1377, 1379, and 1380 (*The Life Records of Chaucer*, A, p. 204, note 3; Rymer, *Foedera*, iv, part 1, pp. 70-1; *ibid.*, p. 83). For a complete biography see my article, "Sir Robert de Assheton, Treasurer of England" in *The Genealogist*, October, 1919.

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THE ELIZABETHAN TRAINED APE

A few references to the Elizabethan showman's ape are worth adding to those recently cited by Professor Strunk in his interesting article (*Mod. Lang. Notes*, xxxii, 215-221). That the "carrier about" of apes did not confine himself to London is shown by such passages as that in the Norwich records for the year 1605-1606, where John Watson, ironmonger, and Roger Laurence are referred to as presenting the King's licence to show "two beasts called Babonnes" (Murray, *Eng. Dramatic Cos.*, II, 338). More explicit is the entry at the same town under October 9, 1617, in which John de Rue and Jeronimo Galt, Frenchmen, are referred to as presenting a licence dated February 23, thirteenth Elizabeth, and also 1616, authorizing them to set forth "rare feats of Activity with dancinge on the Ropes pformed by a woman & also a Baboone that can doe strange feats" (*ibid.*, 342). An interesting, though of course exaggerated, picture of a "Jack-an-Apes" performing at "Looe, in Cornwall," is found in No. 100 of *Taylors Wit and Mirth*. A pamphlet of 1572 (Murray, *Eng. Dram. Cos.*, II, 402) protests against the practice of clergymen rushing through the Sunday service in order that the congregation may attend games or witness "a beare or bull to be bated, or else Jack-an-Apes to ryde on horseback, or an interlude." This may refer to the practice of baiting apes, but it should be noted in this connection that the "Queens Ape" described by Taylor "did always ride vpon a mastiffe dog, and a man with a drum to attend him."

To the instances cited by Professor Strunk of characters on the stage impersonating the professional ape-trainer may be added the following: During the buffoonery before the King at Salisbury, on August 5, 1620, Sir Edward Zouch acted the rôle of a "bearwood," Sir John Millicent "a carrier about of baboons" (Letter of Carlton, *Cal. State Papers, Venice*, 1619-21, p. 390n); in III, 3 of Massinger's *The Bondman* Gracullo enters "leading Asotus in an